

NORTH CAROLINA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

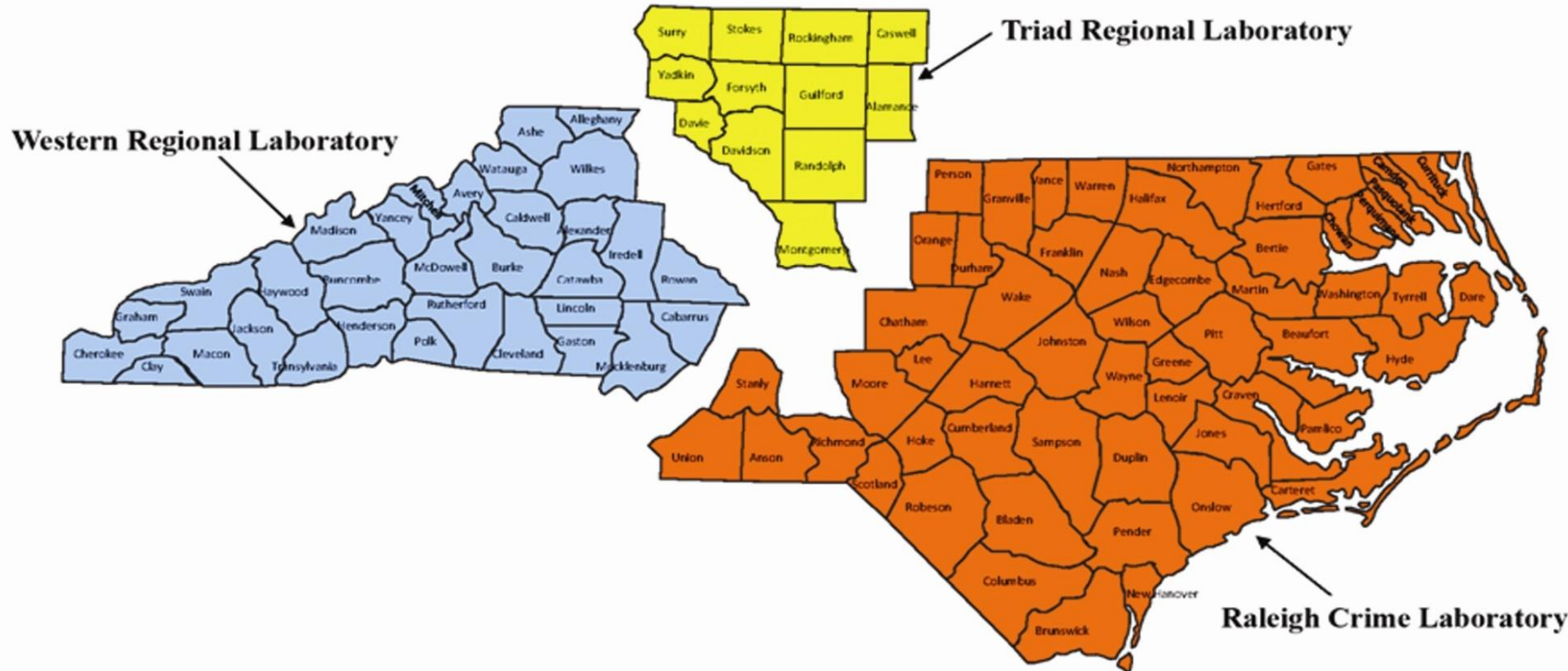
**Presentation to the House Committee on
Judicial Efficiency and Effective
Administration of Justice**

**NORTH CAROLINA
STATE CRIME LABORATORY**

**JOSEPH R. JOHN, SR.
LABORATORY DIRECTOR**

JANUARY 23, 2013

North Carolina State Crime Laboratory



FORENSIC ANALYSES CONDUCTED AT RALEIGH LABORATORY (STATEWIDE):

Digital Evidence

computers, digital media, audio/video

DNA Database

maintenance of State DNA Database

Drug Chemistry

controlled substances

Firearm & Tool Marks

**weapons, ammunition, unidentified
markings**

Forensic Biology

blood, body fluids, DNA testing

Latent Evidence

**fingerprints, palm prints, footprints,
footwear, tire impressions**

Toxicology

**controlled substances, incl.
alcohol/drugs, in blood/urine**

Trace Evidence

**hair, fiber, glass, paint, headlight
filaments, gunshot residue, explosives
and fire debris**

**FORENSIC ANALYSES CONDUCTED AT
TRIAD LABORATORY
(12 COUNTIES):**

**Drug Chemistry
Latent Evidence
Toxicology**

**FORENSIC ANALYSES CONDUCTED AT
WESTERN REGIONAL LABORATORY
(36 COUNTIES):**

**Drug Chemistry
Firearm & Tool Mark
Latent Evidence
Trace Evidence (fire debris only)**

ONGOING CHALLENGES

1. CASE SUBMISSIONS—

**FY 2012/13: 35,174 case submissions +
28,779 CODIS/DNA on Arrest
63,894**

2. *MELLENDEZ-DIAZ V. MASSACHUSETTS--*

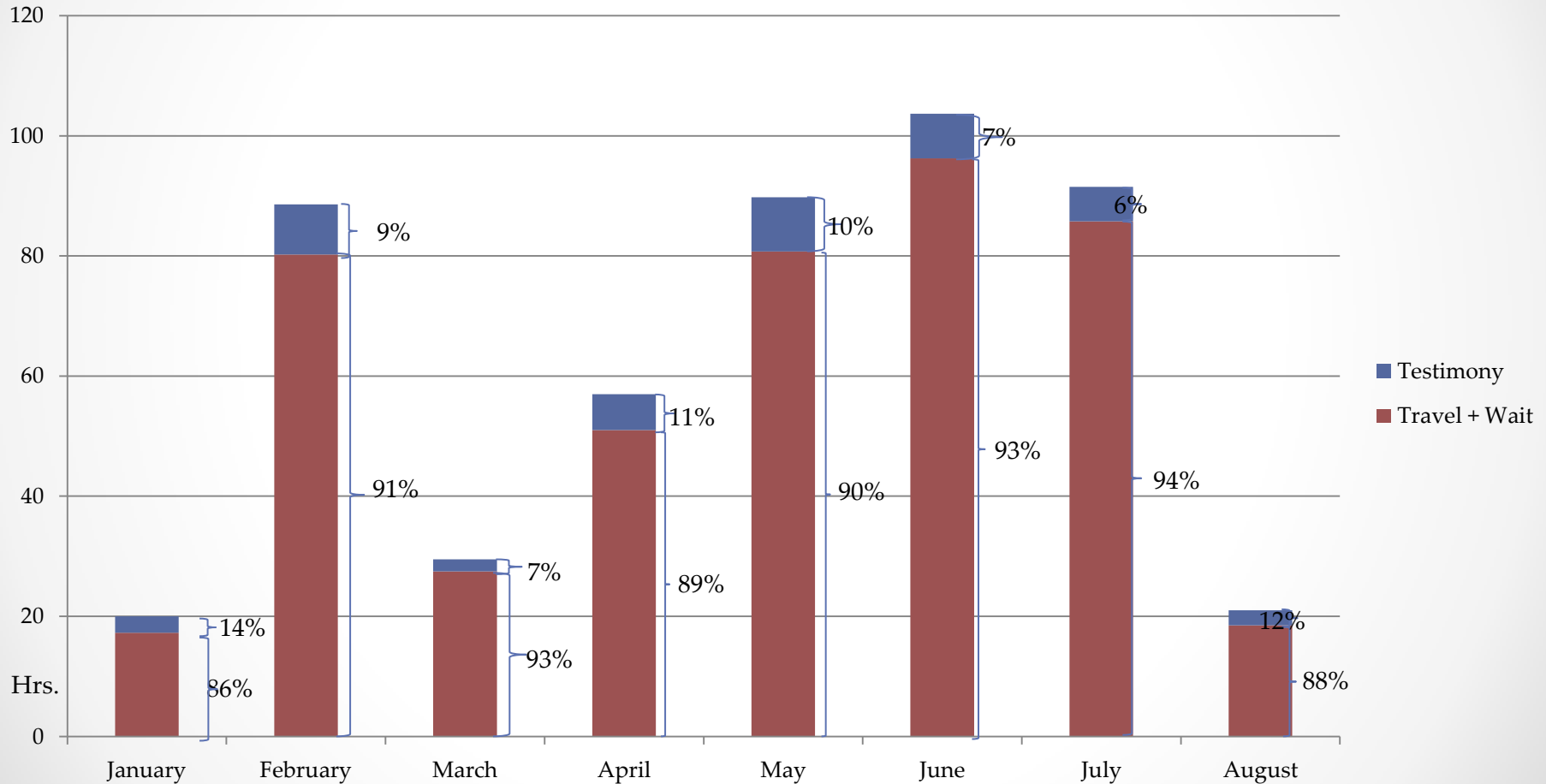
**FY 2012/13: 2,822 hours of analyst court time =
70.55 five day weeks**

3. INSUFFICIENT FORENSIC PERSONNEL--

**FY 2012/13: 124 case working scientists
11 DNA database scientists**

Forensic Biology 2013

Court and Travel/Wait Times



ONGOING CHALLENGES, cont.

4. ATTRITION AND NON-COMPETITIVE FORENSIC SCIENTIST PAY—

**FY 2012/13: 18 DEPARTURES;
9 for “BETTER PAY.”**

18 DEPARTURES = 10.4 % of WORKFORCE.

1/1/2010—1/28/2014

77 Employee Separations:

- **30—"better employment"
(39%)**
- **18—retirement**
- **15—no reason or "personal reasons"**
- **8—miscellaneous reasons**
- **6---transfer to SBI position**

56 Scientist Separations:

- **28—"better employment"
(50%)**
- **5—retirement**
- **13—no reason or "personal reasons"**
- **4—miscellaneous reasons**
- **4—transfer to SBI position**

Per analyst cost to State—

**Assuming a 2 yr. Lab investment in employing,
training & developing a new scientist and
adding scientist salary & costs:**

\$114,625

9 x \$114,625 = \$1,031,625

28 x \$114,625 = \$3,209,500

**2013 NC DOJ
INDEPENDENT SALARY
SURVEY OF FORENSIC SCIENTISTS:**

- **NCSCCL “*below the average minimum, maximum and survey total averages*”**

Average Actual Salary for Comparable Forensic Scientist III Position--

Charlotte/Mecklenburg Crime Lab \$79,359

Va. Department of Forensic Science \$78,764

**Raleigh/Wake City County Bureau
of Identification \$64,169**

N.C. State Crime Laboratory \$57,239

Average Actual Salary for Comparable Forensic Scientist II Position--

Va. Department of Forensic Science \$66,567

Charlotte/Mecklenburg Crime Lab \$65,273

**Raleigh/Wake City County Bureau
of Identification \$50,352**

N.C. State Crime Laboratory \$47,410

Average Actual Salary for Comparable Forensic Scientist I Position--

Va. Department of Forensic Science \$66,567

Charlotte/Mecklenburg Crime Lab \$46,684

N.C. State Crime Laboratory \$42,036

QUESTIONS?

***If the law has made you a witness
Remain a creature of science.
You have no victim to avenge,
No guilty or innocent person
to convict or save—
You must bear testimony
within the limits of science.***

Dr. P.C.H. Brouadel, 19th Century French Medico-Legalist